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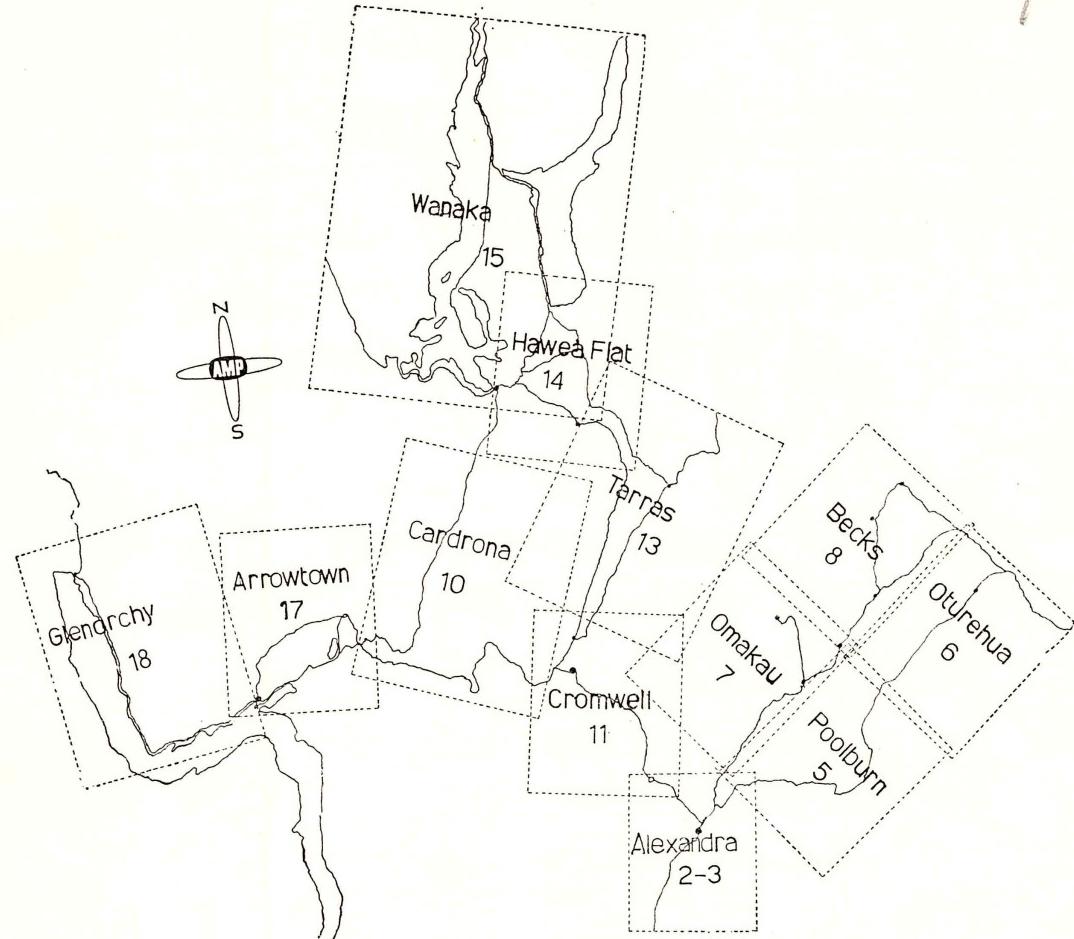
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INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Central Otago is one of the best known geographical areas in New Zealand. A land of rugged block shaped mountains separated by flat bottomed plains, this is essentially a farmers area, although the long sunny summers and bracing winters attract thousands of tourists each year to enjoy the varied scenic attractions.

On to the natural tussocks of the plains in the 1860's came large run-holders, but the area received its major boost with the discovery of gold at Tuapeka in 1861 and by Hartley and Reilly near Cromwell in 1862. From this point until the late 1870's thousands of miners flocked in to the area and opened it for further settlement as roads were constructed behind them. Today mining is almost non-existent, but many

numerous interesting relics still remain of those old days.

With the decline of gold the importance of the farmer rose. The run-holders, grazing fine-woollen sheep, had continued throughout the whole period but with the aid of controlled water supplies and the eradication of rabbits, orcharding and fat lamb farming began on the fertile flats, terraces and valley floors.

Today "Central" is a steadily growing area based on a dual economy of farming and tourism. The numerous settlements throughout are expanding to satisfy the extra demands placed upon them by the growing permanent population and rapidly increasing tourist numbers.

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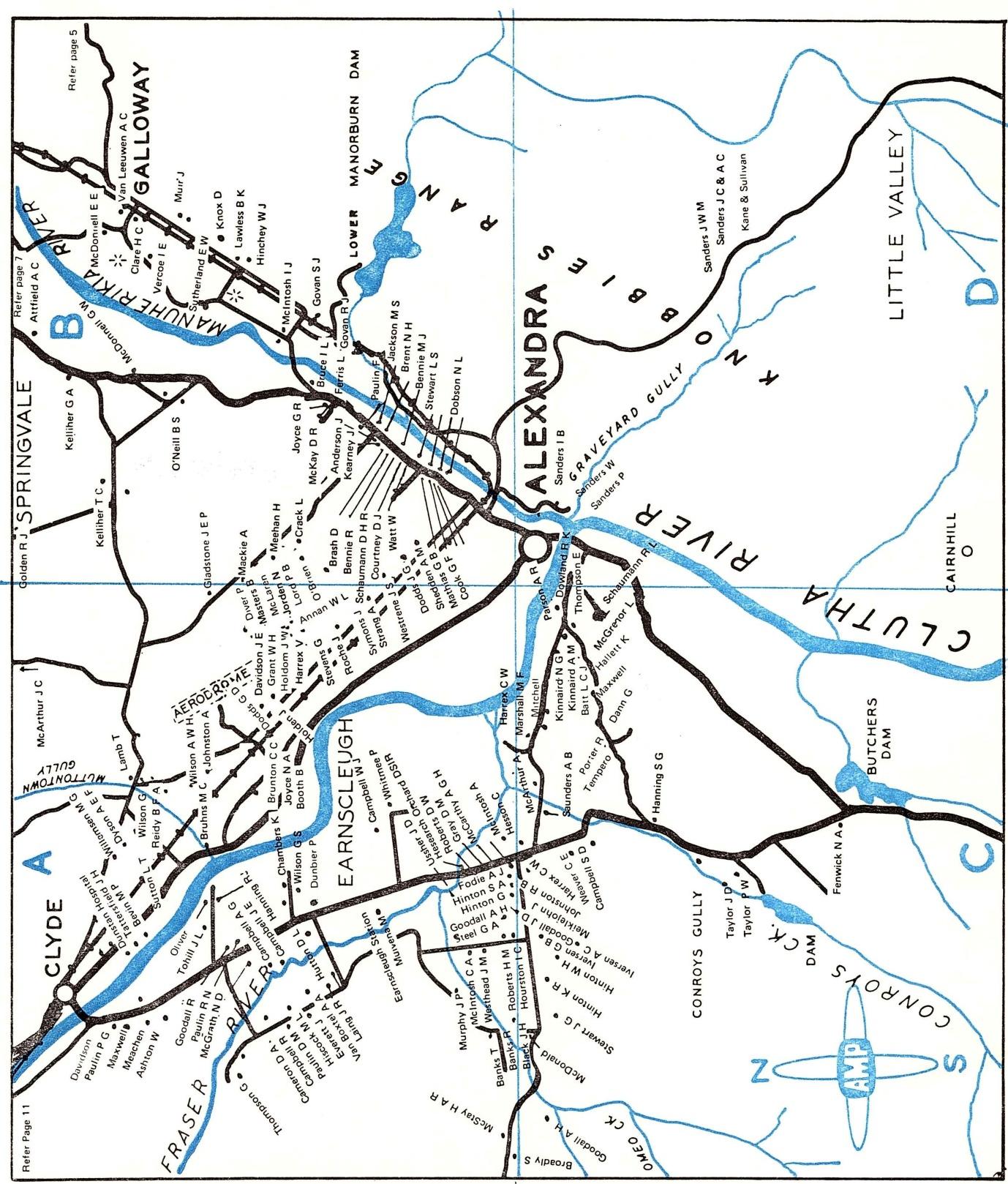
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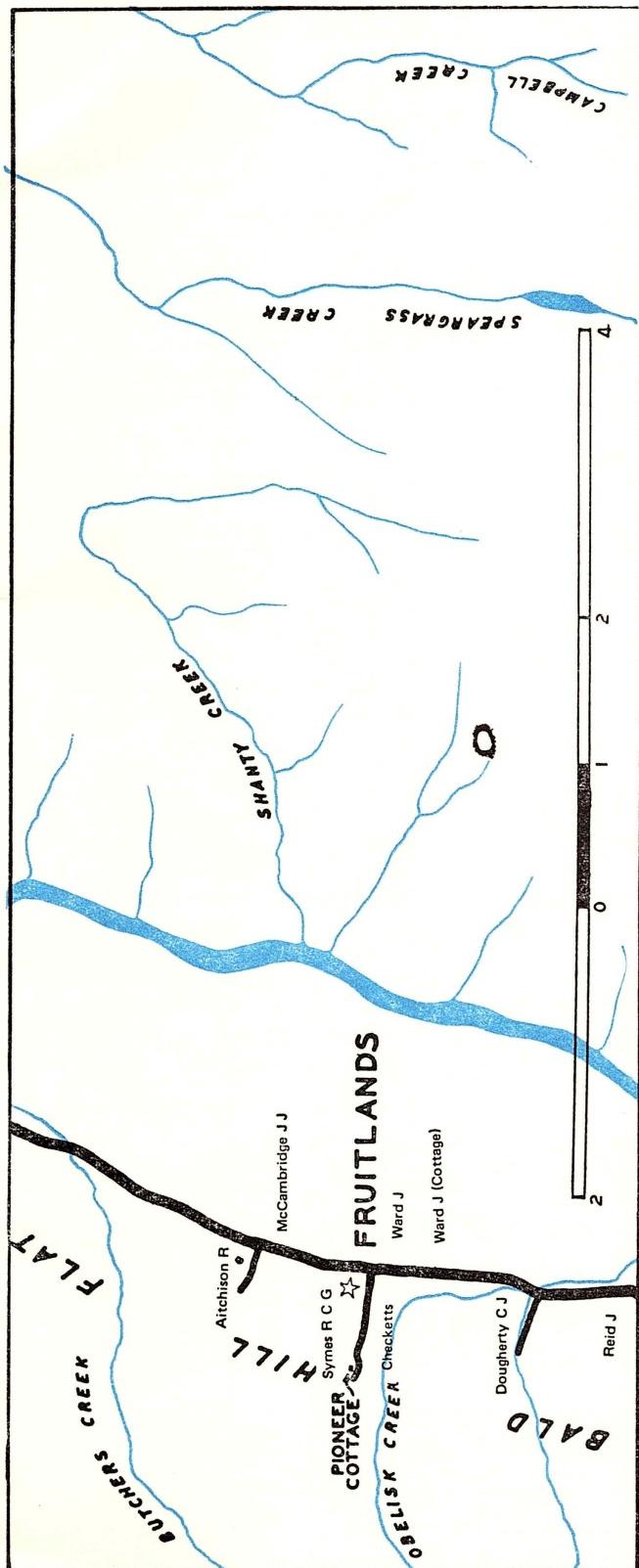
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ALEXANDRA

In 1862, the discovery of gold at Dunstan caused a township to develop at the junction of the Manuherikia and Clutha Rivers. Known as "Lower Junction Town" and later as Manuherikia, the name Alexandra was given to the town in 1864 after the then Princess of Wales.

Today Alexandra, the commercial centre for Central Otago, is a prosperous and thriving community. Its low rainfall coupled with hot summers and clear cold winters makes it a popular tourist resort. During the summer months tourists and locals alike enjoy swimming in rivers and at the local baths. The Centennial swimming pool is of special interest as it has facilities to cater for all abilities — from learners to champions. The pool is of the Junior Olympic size, has diving and toddlers' pools and is heated so that the swimming season can be prolonged.

The rivers really lend themselves to holiday making and those interested in boating, canoeing, rowing, jet boats, water skiing or just a pleasure cruise will find that all their needs are catered for. There are opportunities for private boating on Lake Roxburgh, a man-made lake which came into being when the Clutha was dammed in 1957. The hydro-electric dam itself is well worth a visit and is an easy driving distance from Alexandra. Other facilities for the sporting minded are provided by an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, bowls, croquet and squash held in the Molyneux Park Stadium where nearby many indoor and outdoor sports are catered for. Good trout fishing is to be had in local dams and rivers.

Five miles from town is the Manorburn Dam. During the cold winters the dam freezes and provides ample opportunity for such winter sports as skating, curling and ice hockey. This is supplemented during milder seasons by an artificial ice skating rink where a canteen and skate hire shop are situated.

The visitors will be particularly interested in the many well preserved examples of the early gold miner's abilities to make use of local materials in his many constructions.

The piers of the old suspension bridge over the Clutha on the approaches to the town are still preserved

and may be compared with the modern structure alongside which was opened in 1957.

The completed bridge, opened in 1882, was a tribute to the skill and craftsmanship of the early pioneers. The 552 foot structure was mounted on two magnificent piers, the largest situated on the Alexandra side of the river.

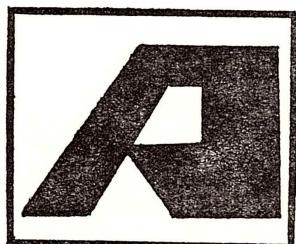
Although it is the bridge over the Clutha that is usually associated with Alexandra, there is another historic suspension bridge over the Manuherikia River which may be seen from the end of Kerry Street. This is the "Shakey Bridge", for many years in disrepair, but now restored as a footbridge to give access to the land across the river and provide a walk for the visitor. The bridge was built in 1879 as a packhorse bridge.

Housed in modern surroundings in the Historical Museum in Alexandra is a fine collection of early pioneer tools, clothing, implements and the various other accoutrements associated with the gold mining days.

Sited as it is among barren mountains, Alexandra acts as a convenient base for trampers. The Old Man Range to the South identified by the large upright rock called the Obelisk (5507ft), the Old Woman or Dunstan Range to the West, and the Raggedy Range to the East, all provide satisfactory terrain for tramping and excellent conditions for naturalists. For those less adventurous, a drive to the Observation Point on the Knobbies to survey Alexandra and district is well worth a visit. Note the giant 32 foot clock which is situated on these hills — a feature unique to Alexandra.

The town is particularly picturesque at Blossom time, gardens and orchards alike being a mass of colour. An important event held at this time of the year is the annual Blossom Festival which attracts thousands of visitors for the week of its duration. Some of the main attractions include a procession of floral floats prepared by local organisations and a raft race on the Clutha River from Clyde to Alexandra.

Alexandra is a very pleasant holiday resort, providing accommodation in the form of three hotels, ten motels and two camping grounds.



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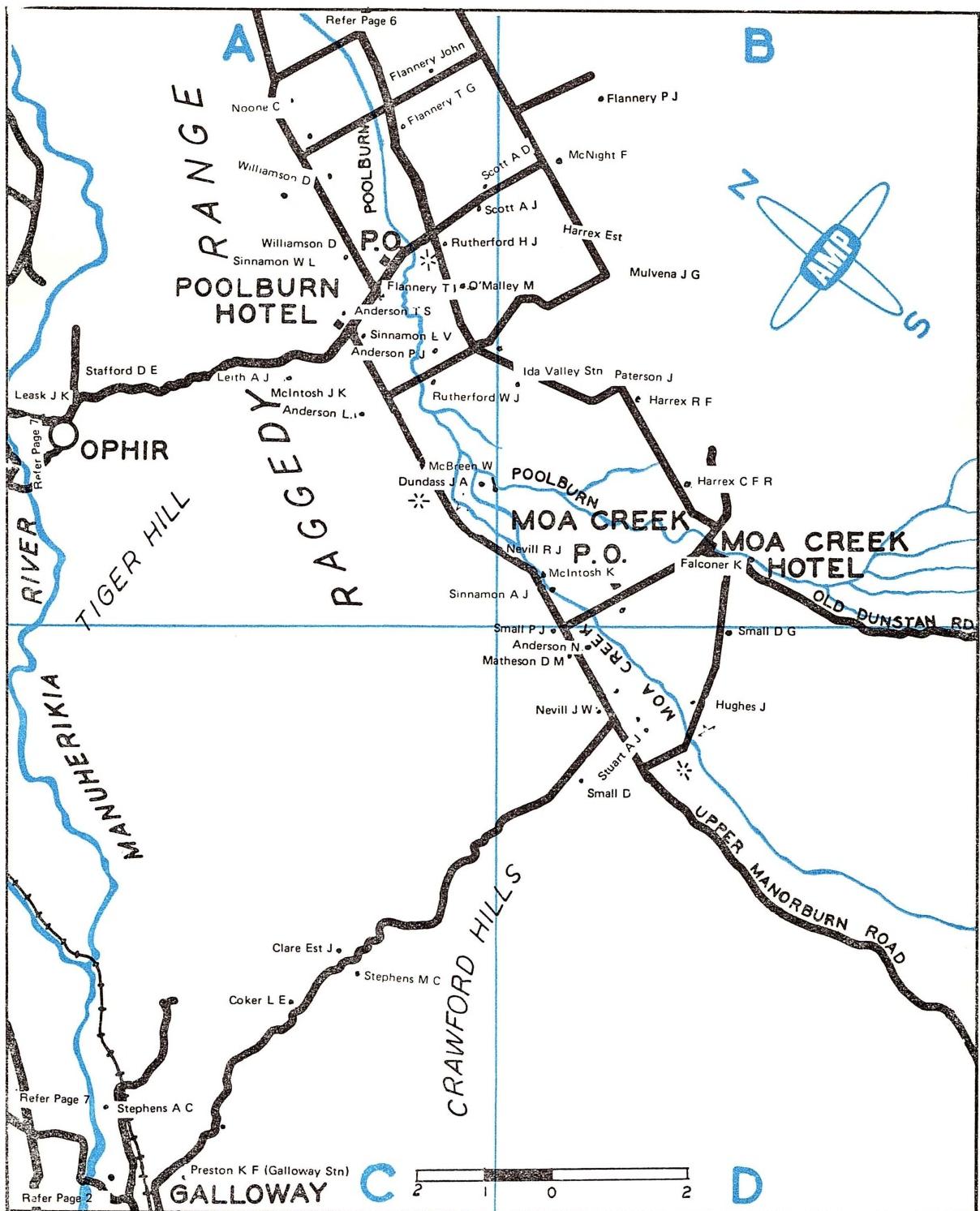
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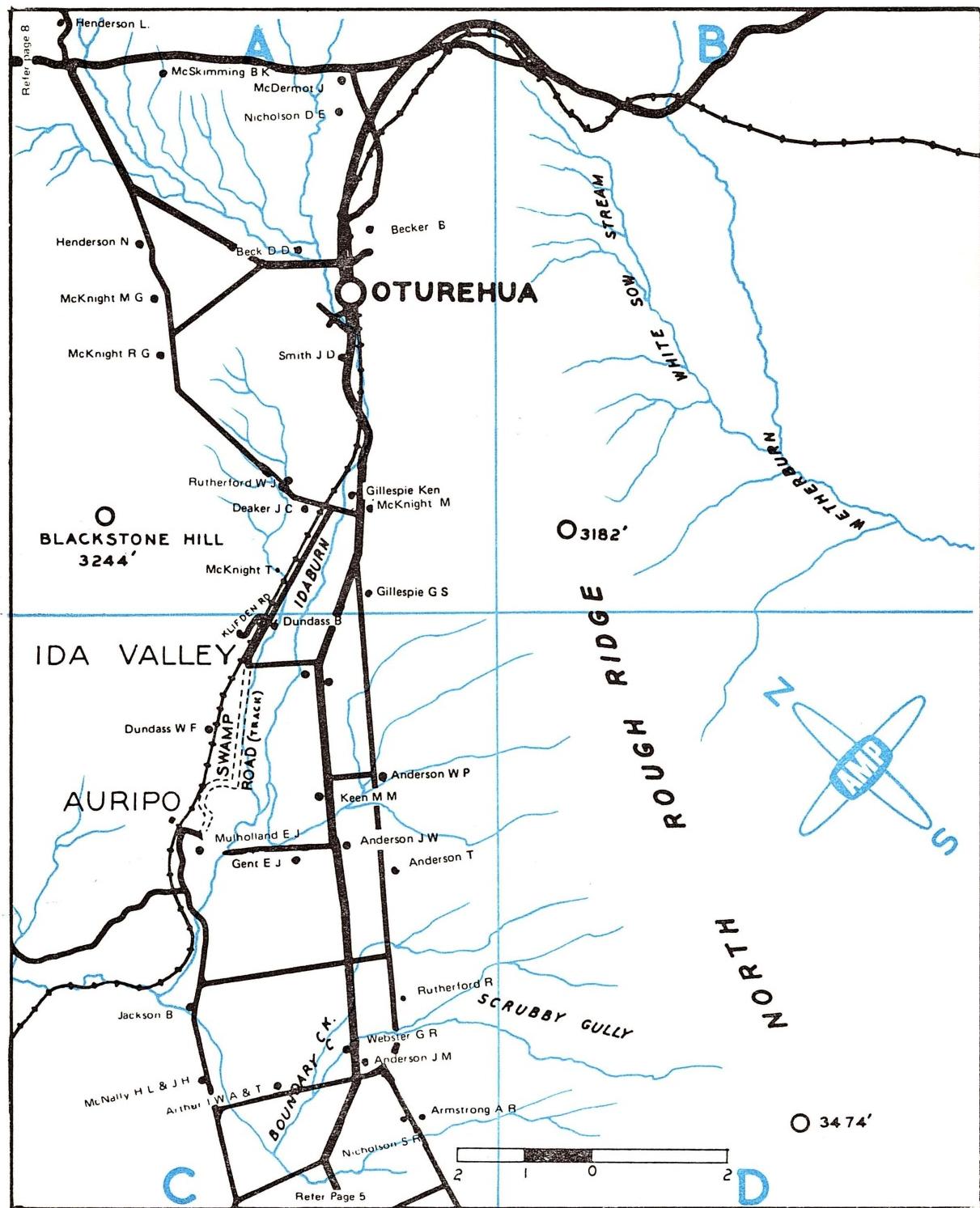
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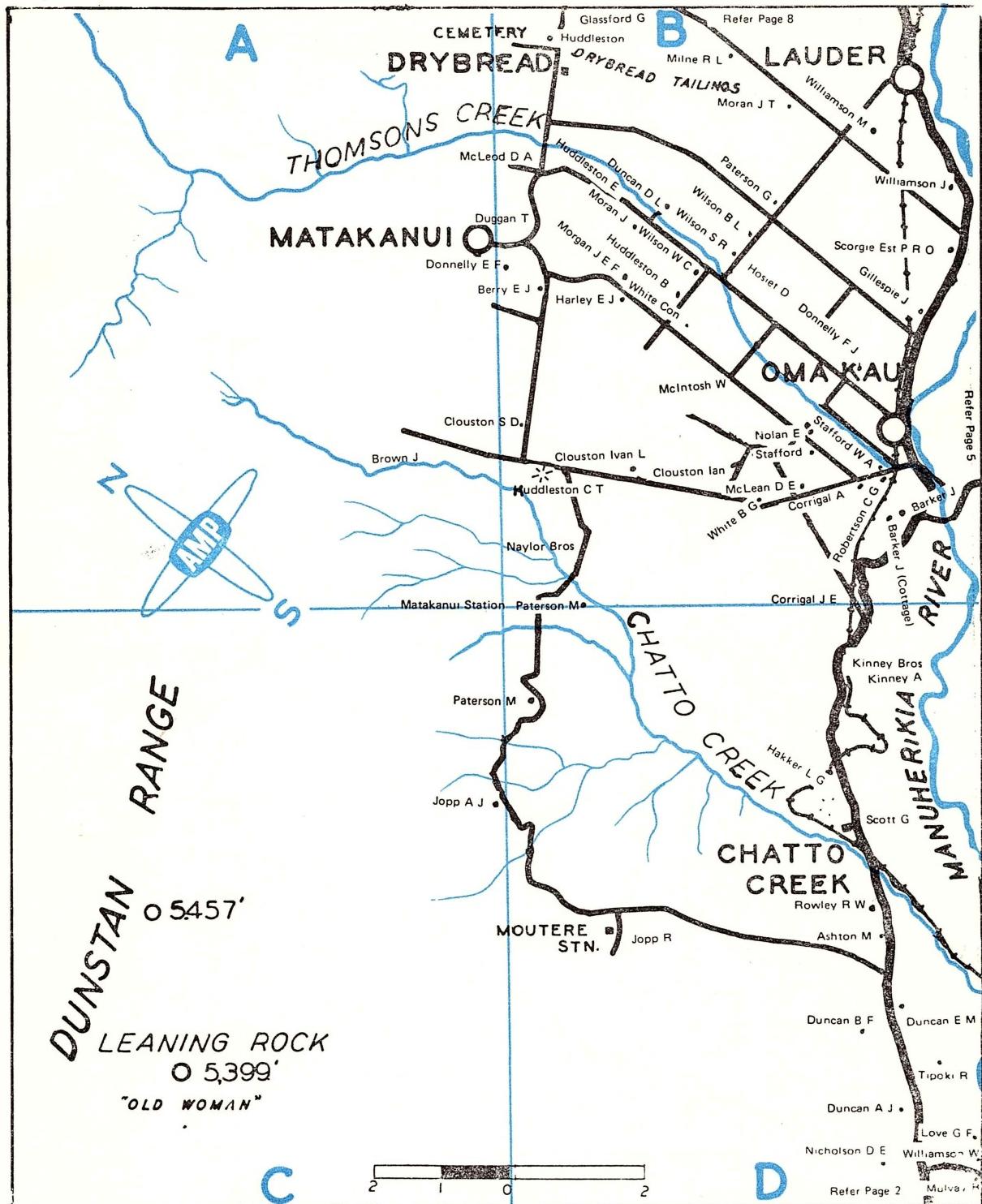
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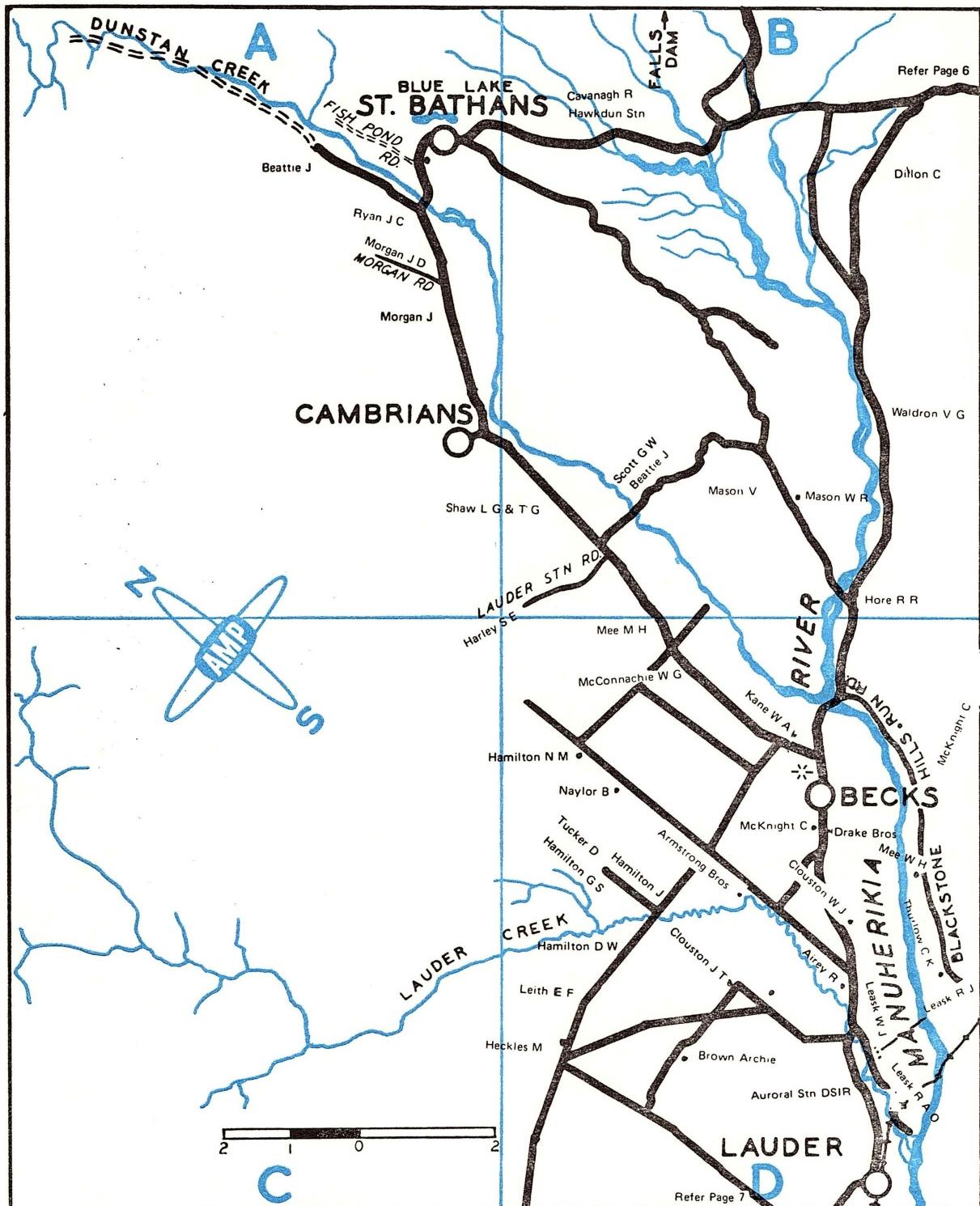
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IDA VALLEY AND MANUHERIKIA VALLEY

Such picturesque names as Raggedy, Knobbies, and Rough Ridge give some hint to the ruggedness of the hills surrounding Ida Valley.

Settled in the early days by pastoralists utilising the native tussock grasslands, the Valley has since developed into an intensive fat lamb farming district dependent to a considerable extent on irrigation water from the Poolburn, Idaburn and Upper Manorburn Dams.

Across the hills lies the equally fertile Manuherikia Valley. As with many areas in Central Otago its early history is synonymous with gold discoveries being made along the edge of the hills at Ophir, Matakanui, Dry Bread, Cambrians and St. Bathans.

Today these are almost ghost towns although the deserted shafts and water races bear mute evidence of a once thriving industry.

The story of the mining era would be incomplete without reference to the herculean task of the miners

at Dry Bread and Tinkers, names derived from the mining vernacular. This district is now known as Matakanui. Water for the Tinkers and Dry Bread claims was attained from Thomson's Creek. However, the classic example of enterprise is that of a group of hardy Irishmen who were, because of the difficulty of obtaining water, forced to build a race over 20 miles long from Chatto Creek to Matakanui. For three years they toiled before they began to apply the hard won water to their claim. Fortunately their efforts were well rewarded for from 1878 to 1912 their Undaunted Company won 31,280 ounces of gold.

Of particular interest is the famous Blue Lake at St. Bathans created by the hydraulic sluicing activities and today filled with water of the deepest azure.

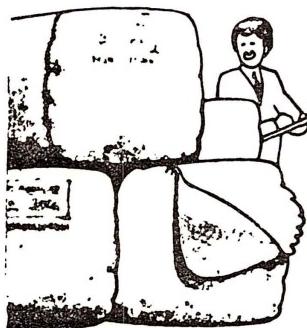
Omakau, the present centre of the valley, is a town of more recent origin being established when the Central Otago Railway reached the Valley in 1904.



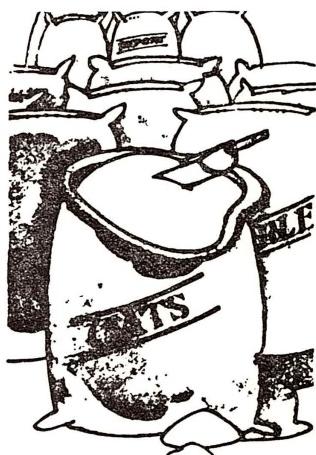
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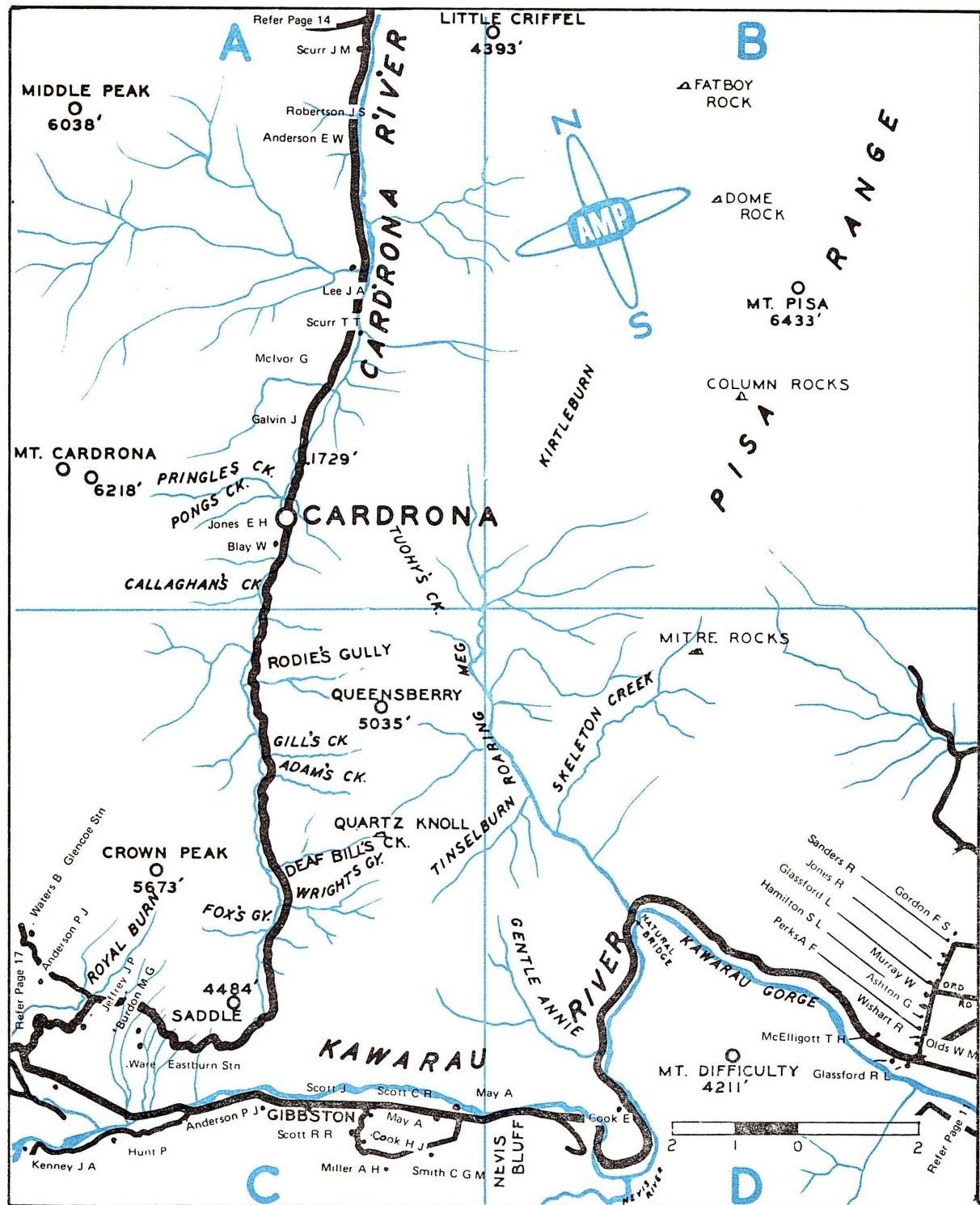
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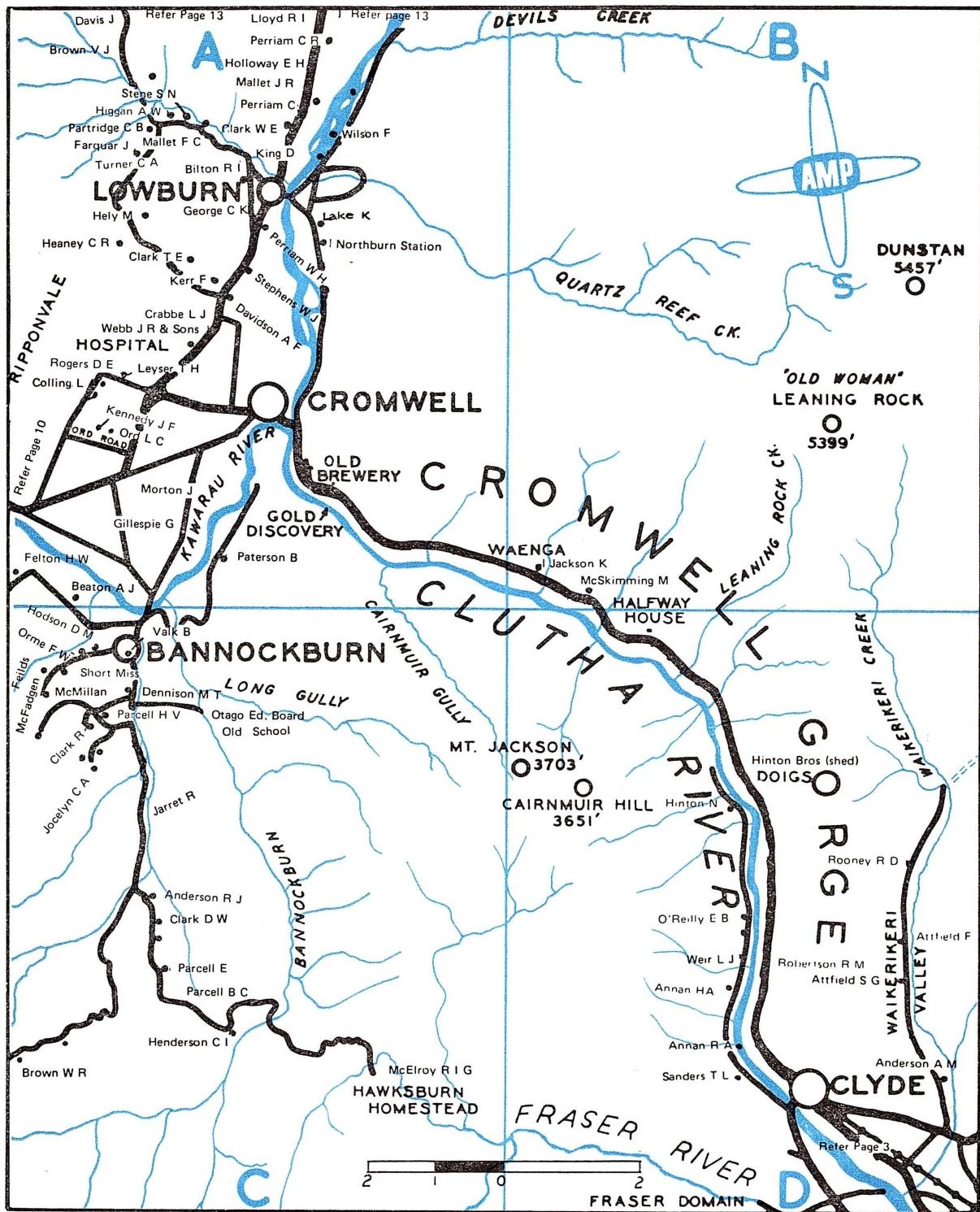
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CLYDE

Situated at the South end of the Cromwell Gorge, Clyde is one of the more attractive townships in Central Otago.

In the 1860's, known as Dunstan or Hartley Township, it was the centre of the Dunstan gold rush. Today Clyde is the administrative centre for the Vincent County as well as serving a large fruit-growing area.

For the holiday visitor the township offers swim-

ming baths, croquet and bowling greens and a nine hole golf course. For those interested in the history of Central Otago there are many buildings constructed of local stone such as the Commercial Hotel, the Post Office, and the old County Office.

Interesting drives and rambles can be made in the countryside around Clyde. The Fraser Domain at Earnscleugh is a most pleasant picnicking area.

CROMWELL

Sited at the "meeting of the waters" of the Clutha and Kawarau Rivers — Cromwell was in the early days appropriately known as The Junction. It came into being as a result of Hartley and Reilly's historic discovery of gold, August 21, 1862, one mile below the settlement and received a great impetus during the ensuing Dunstan gold rush.

In 1864 the first bridge was built across the Clutha at Cromwell providing the major access for miners heading to the Dunstan Gold Fields at Arrow and Queenstown.

From 1890 to 1920 several gold dredges worked the area but today gold is of historic interest only and the prosperity of the district rests on the farmer. Sheep farming is the main occupation but in the Ripponvale and Bannockburn areas fertile irrigated orchards exist amidst the old sluicing claims.

Cromwell itself, the geographical centre of Otago, has grown into one of the more attractive towns in Central. It provides three hotels, four motels and two camping grounds for the increasing tourist trade, and also offers bowling greens, a golf course, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

The Kawarau Gorge with its precipitous and rocky sides presented an insuperable obstacle to the early

miner, forcing him to find his way to the Arrowtown area by following the Upper Clutha Valley to the Cardrona River and thence by this river to the top of the Crown Range, down the Terraces and so to the new gold fields.

Today a modern sealed highway winds through the Kawarau Gorge to Arrowtown and thence to Queenstown.

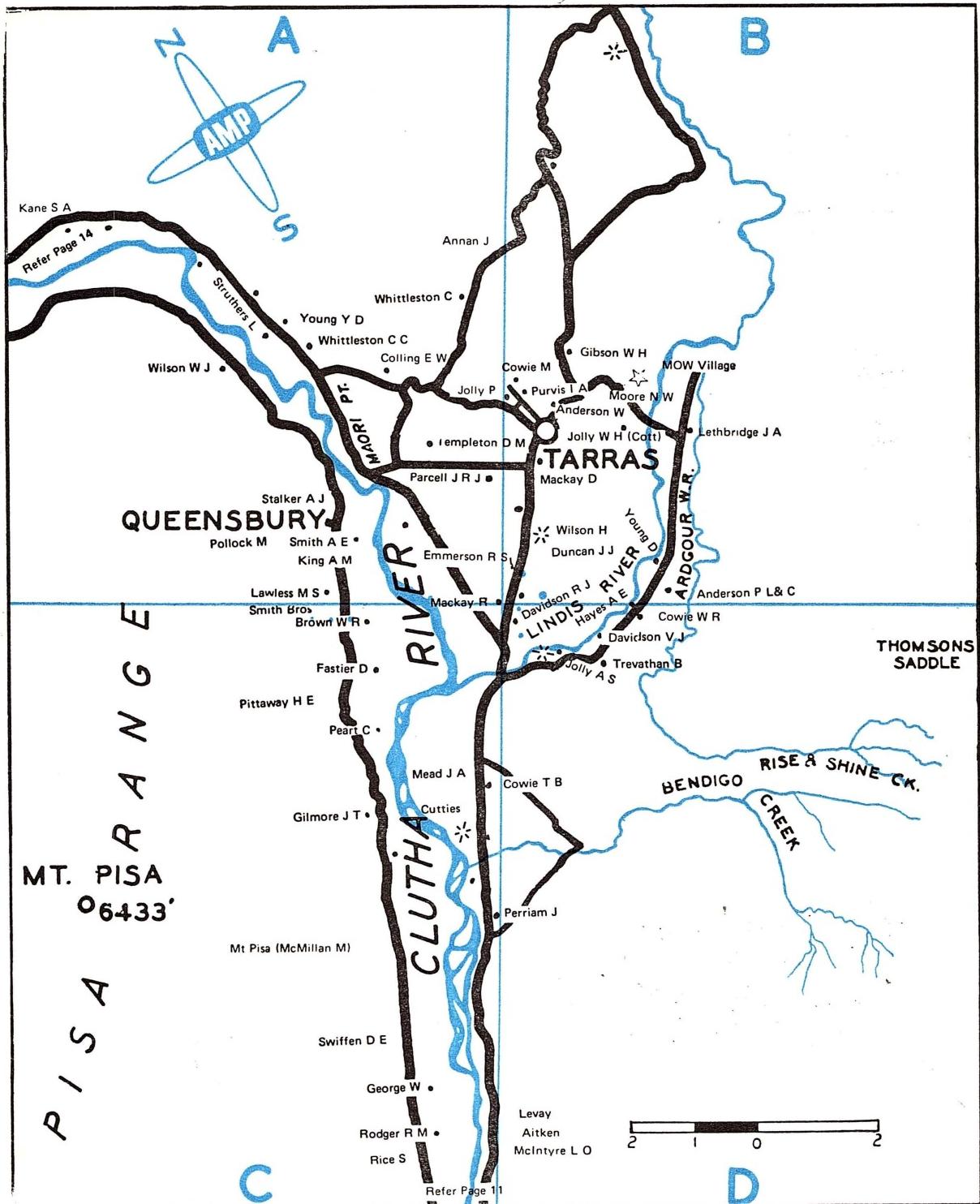
From Cromwell, an interesting drive can be made to the Roaring Meg Power Station past orchards and abandoned mining claims in the rugged Kawarau Gorge. Right at the Meg is the 45th Parallel, halfway between the equator and South Pole, and just beyond on a flat on the road side of the river many of the early gold dredges were constructed.

Other interesting trips can be made South down the Cromwell Gorge, and South-West to Bannockburn from which a dry weather road continues into the Nevis providing an excellent view of the Upper Clutha Valley. The rivers between Cromwell and Tarras to the North provide good trout fishing and the surrounding hills are favourite areas for Chukor and Californian quail. Along the Lindis River there are several pleasant picnic places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The reader interested in further information on this fascinating area of New Zealand should refer to any of the many excellent publications including—

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| "The Dunstan" | | by C. W. S. Moore |
| "The Golden Cobweb" | | by H. A. Glasson |
| "The History of Otago" | | by A. H. McClintock |
| "Early Gold Discoveries In Otago" | | by Vincent Pyke |
| "Early Days of Central Otago" | | by Robt. Gilkinson |
| "Kawarau Gold" | | by R. S. M. Sinclair |
| "Golden Days Of Lake County" | | by S. W. G. Miller |
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| "Gold In The River" | | by S. W. G. Miller |
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| "Wanaka Story" | | by Irvine Roxburgh |



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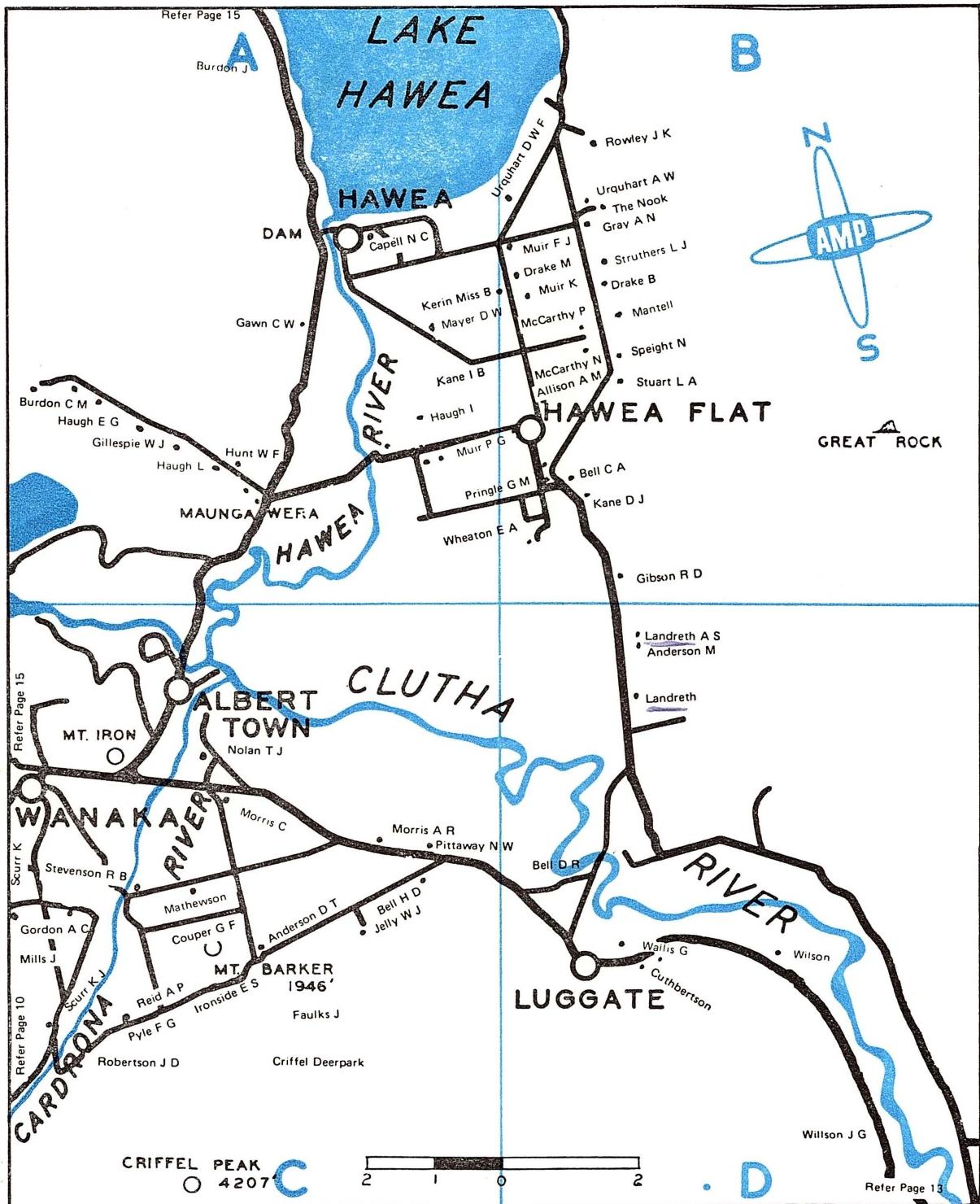
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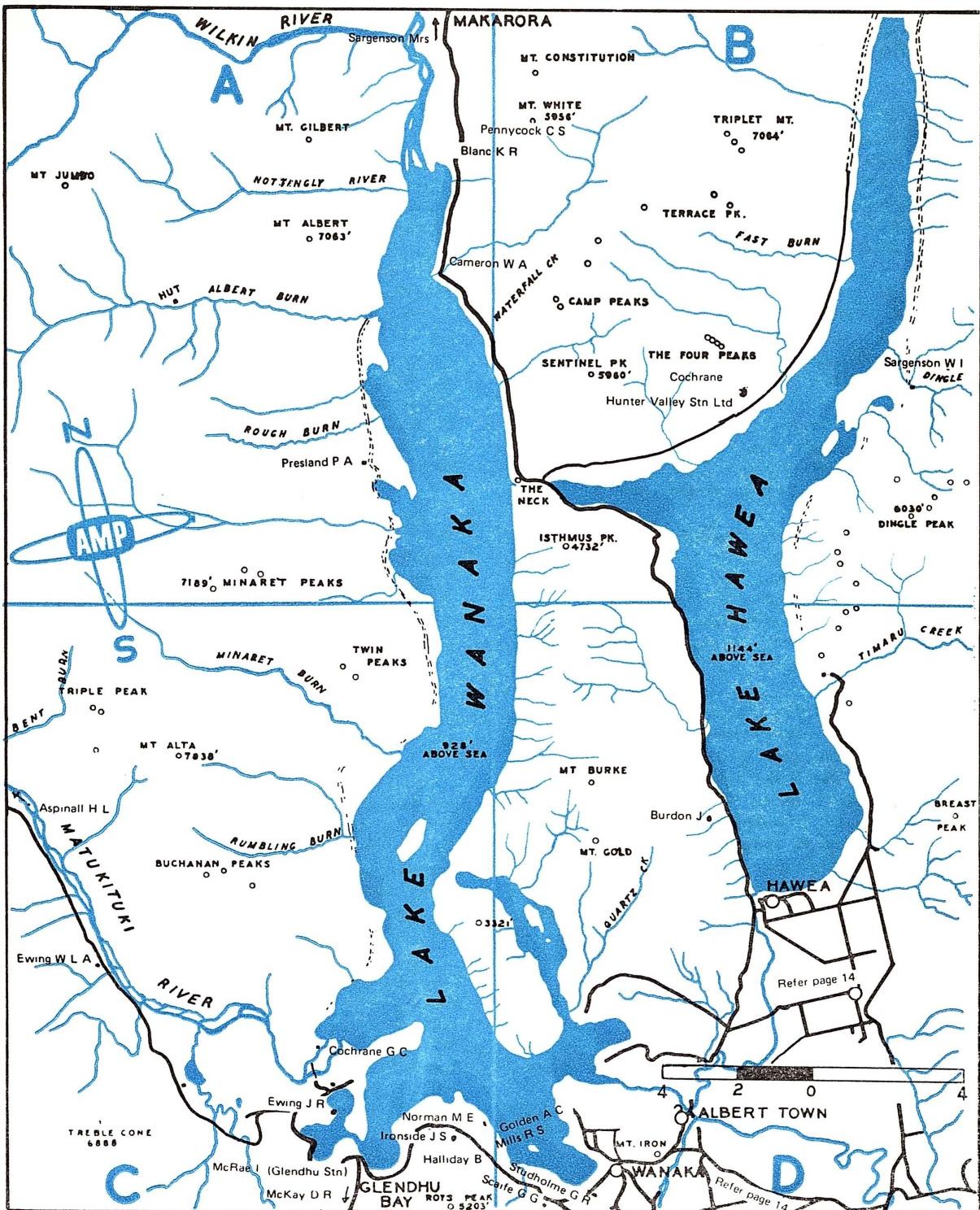
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WANAKA AND HAWEA

Wanaka, known as Pembroke until the late 1930's, has developed since the end of World War II into one of the main tourist towns in Central. Its attraction lies in a combination of a pleasant climate and beautiful mountain and lake scenery. A luxury THC Hotel, three houses, ten motels, and three camping grounds provide ample accommodation for tourists of all means.

Wanaka is the base for a sportsman's paradise. Fishing is profitable and enjoyable on Lake Hawea and Wanaka and in the Clutha, Hawea, Matukituki, Makarora and Lindis Rivers. The shooter can choose from amongst deer, duck, hare, quail and chukor and especially in the more remote areas will be most unlucky if he does not obtain a trophy. For the less adventurous, launch trips can be taken to pleasant picnic places such as Ruby Island, Glendhu Bay and Pigeon Island and others by arrangement.

To gain magnificent panoramic views of the surrounding lakes and countryside the tourist is urged to climb Mt. Iron (1810ft) near Wanaka, or Mt. Roy (5205ft) on the Glendhu Bay road. From either mountain, roads can be discerned running in different directions, each serving an area distinctive in its attraction for the tourist.

1. CARDRONA AND CROWN RANGE ROAD. — Providing an alternative summer route to Queenstown (closed from after Easter to Labour Day), the Crown Range Road is the highest major through route in New Zealand. Cardrona Valley on the Wanaka side was first used by the explorer Rees in 1860 and later for driving sheep to Queenstown, but as with many Central Otago areas, received its major impetus with the discovery of gold in 1862. In its heyday, as a mining centre, Cardrona had a large mining population with at least six hundred Chinese prospectors, and six hotels. After the initial rush the Valley became a sluicing and dredging area, but by 1917 this too had ended and today tailings, old sluicing claims and the abandoned Cardrona Hotel are the picturesque remains of a once thriving area. "Gold" in the area today comes from the backs of the fine-wool sheep.

2. MAKARORA, HAAST, SOUTH WESTLAND ROAD. — In 1963, with the completion of the Haast-a-Pringa section of State Highway 6, the tourist was offered a direct route from Central Otago into Westland. This has quickly developed into one of the major tourist routes in New Zealand as the trip gives the visitor an excellent opportunity of viewing a wonderful array of lakes, waterfalls, rivers, mountains, and magnificent native bush. For an interesting description of the development of the road the tourist is referred to "Westland—Otago via Haast", printed by R. E. Owen, Government Printer, 1965.

3. GLENDHU BAY, MATUKITUKI ROAD. — This trip which can be accomplished in a day provides the tourist with a magnificent array of lake and mountain scenery. Leaving Wanaka the road proceeds around the lake and at the six-mile mark, Mount Aspiring appears in the distance. Often referred to as the New Zealand Matterhorn, the Maori name Tititea, "The upright glistening mountain", perhaps better describes its sharp pronounced shape. Just a mile further on Glendhu Bay is reached, the site of a pleasant and popular camping ground. From Glendhu the road continues for some twenty miles through glaciated mountain scenery of the Matukituki Valley ending at Mount Aspiring Station. This is the end point for the motorist but for the tramp a track commences leading to Alpine Hut, the base for climbing Mt. Aspiring and adjacent mountains.

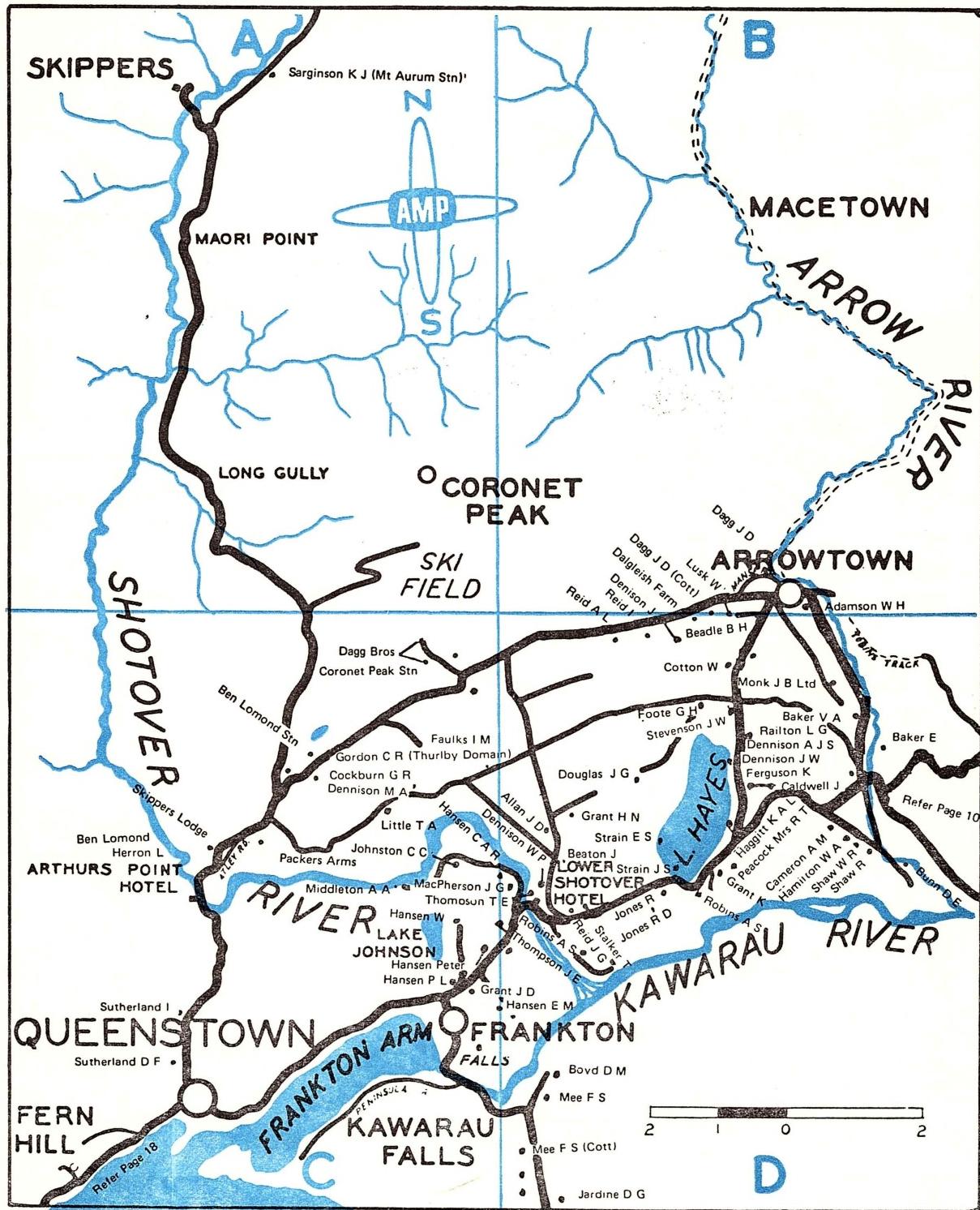
On the lakes in the early 19th century were a few small villages of the Ngai-tahu tribe, who in their turn supplanted earlier groups of Waitahu and Ngatimomoe. These Maoris used the Haast Pass in their journeys to the West Coast for greenstone. They lived on an abundance of kakapo, kiwi, weka and other wingless birds, as well as on fish and eels from the lakes.

Lake Hawea, 1060 feet above sea-level, and 1228 feet deep, is approximately 22 miles long by 5 miles wide (an old glacial basin).

At the outlet to the Hawea River was a Maori palisade village, Katane. Along the beach towards the corner of the lake before going on to Timaru Creek was known to the Maori as "Taki's fishing place, Te Tau-Manu-o-Taki." Breast Hill which towers over this part of the Lake was known as Turi-Huka, "Obstinate for a long time."

At the Neck, which is the narrow isthmus between Lake Hawea and Lake Wanaka, once stood Manu-kaea, a Maori village of the Ngatimomoe tribe, famous as an eeling and bird catching centre. Here the Maoris had two good lookout points — Isthmus Peak (4732 feet) and Sentinel Peak (5958 feet) which are on either side of the road. The Maoris also used to haul their canoes over this Neck from one lake to another.

Albertown first came into prominence in 1863 when G. M. Hassing used a whaleboat to ferry miners and supplies over the Clutha River. At that time, all traffic from the Dunstan followed up the east (or right) bank of the Clutha River, was ferried over the river at Albertown, and thence proceeded up the Cardrona Valley, and across the Crown Terrace to Arrowtown. Later Hassing established another ferry at Sandy Point, further down the river, thus shortening the route by fifteen miles. Albertown was thus a busy place for travellers.



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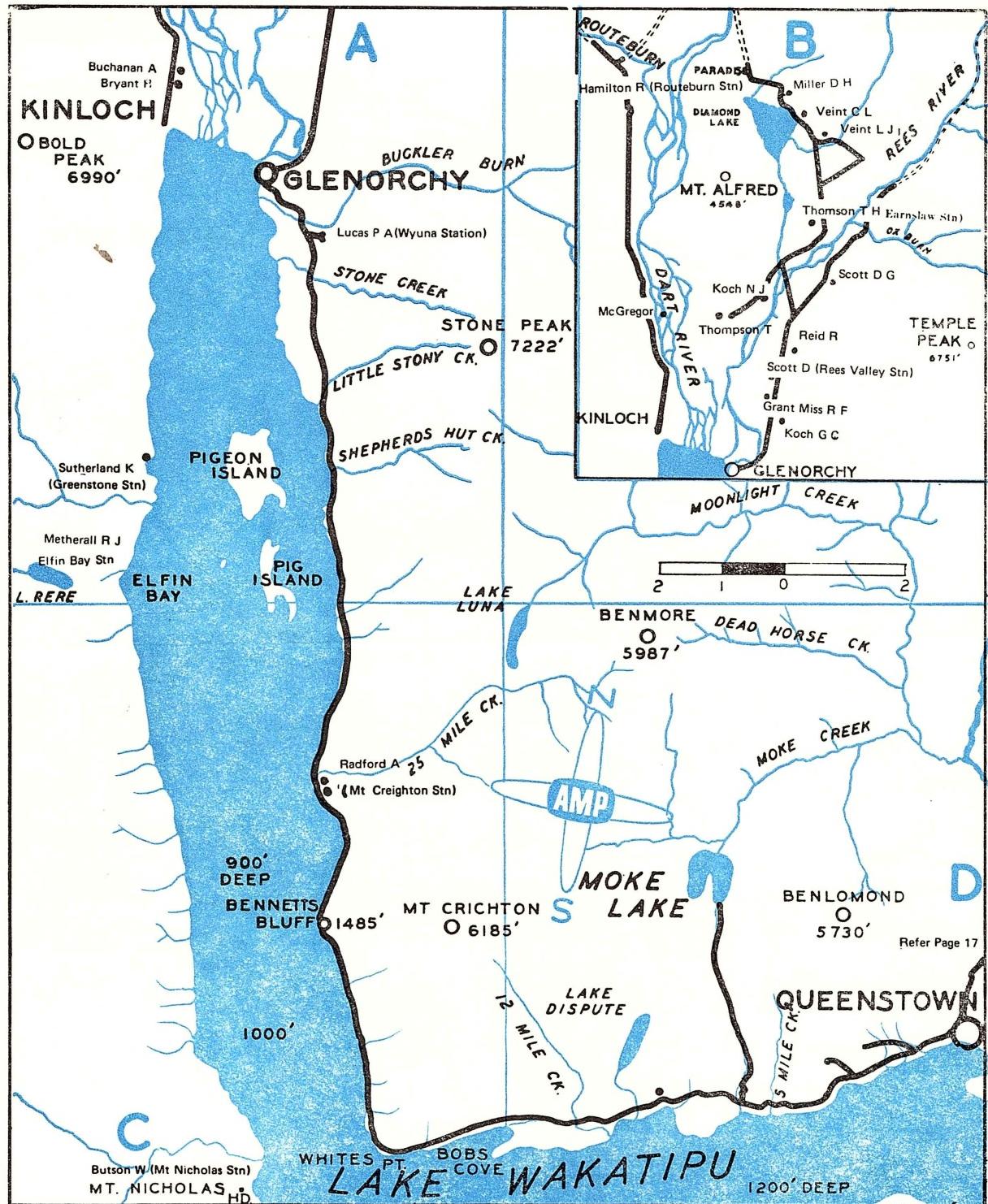
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ARROWTOWN AND WAKATIPU

Situated on Lake Wakatipu, one of the most beautiful of the South Island deep water glacial lakes, the first white man to spy the present site of Queenstown was believed to be Donald Hay, who in 1859 sailed a raft from Kingston to the Kawarau River. In 1860 W. G. Rees, an early explorer, built his home in the area on a site now occupied by the THC Hotel (Erichards). From this point Queenstown developed slowly until around the early 1940's when it began to progress with the increasing tourist numbers, and today is dependent more on the tourist trade than any other Central Otago town.

Based in Queenstown, the tourist has a wide variety of attractions to visit. The highlight perhaps would be a trip by the cable-way up the side of Bob's Peak to the Skyline Chalet from which a magnificent panoramic view can be obtained of the town and the lake.

In brief, other attractions include:

LAKE TRIPS which can be made by S.S. "Earnslaw" to the Head of the Lake, by pleasure launches, water taxis and rowing boats.

WALKS to Ben Lomond to view the sun rising over Queenstown; the Remarkables, a steep climb recommended only for the fit climber; and to Moonlight to view remains of the once extensive gold fields.

MOTOR TRIPS:

For the motorist trips can be made South by State Highway 6 along the Southern Arm of Lake Wakatipu to Kingston and on into Southland. Stop at the Kawarau Falls to view the gates on the bridge which was built in an endeavour to block the flow from Lake Wakatipu and gather gold from the dry bed of the Kawarau River. Unfortunately the underground seepage was too great and the scheme failed.

Northwards a drive can be made along the North Arm to Glenorchy and Paradise. Glenorchy, which has an hotel, is a centre for alpine climbing, scheelite mining and also for trampers heading into the Dart Valley. Also on the North end of the lake is Kinloch, the starting point for the Routeburn walking track leading to the Hollyford and Eglinton Valleys.

A shorter drive, perhaps the most famous in the area, is the trip to Skippers. This road passes through some magnificent mountain and river scenery finally ending at Skippers, today a ghost town but once the site of a thriving mining community. The nervous driver is urged to avail himself of the bus provided by a local Queenstown company.

For the skiing enthusiast, the road to Skippers also leads to the skifields at Coronet Peak which has developed into one of the major winter playground areas in New Zealand.

ARROWTOWN

Twelve miles from Queenstown is Arrowtown, a small township, which by combining the benefits of a sunny climate and the historic interest of the gold mining days, has developed into a growing tourist centre.

The township was founded in 1862 when William Fox discovered gold in the Arrow River. As in all areas in Central Otago, mining activities have long since finished, but the visitor can gain an impression of those old days by visiting the Lakes District Museum with its unique collection of mining relics and by tramping to the historical mining centre of Macetown.

With other attractions such as golf, bowls, tennis, swimming, ice-skating and fishing, Arrowtown has become the centre for a pleasant and restful holiday.

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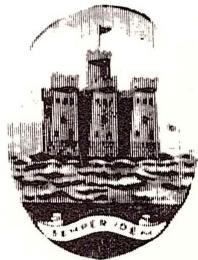
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